



Draft - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Californians Celebrate King Holiday By Serving Others

The Corporation for National and Community Service and the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism are pleased to announce the volunteer activities of Californians throughout the state that will make Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 19, a "Day ON, Not a Day Off."

Rosie Mauk, national director of AmeriCorps, will participate in community service activities in the Los Angeles area. Accompanied by David Muraki, Executive Director for the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, Mauk will join the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and 200 volunteers to renovate the homes of over 30 elderly low-income people. The Corps members and volunteers will work in teams to provide minor repair work such as cleaning up backyards and garages, repairing fences, painting, and planting to rehab the residences. Mauk and Muraki will also participate in the Orange County Volunteer Center MLK Day project by preparing boxes at the Orange County Food Bank for needy families.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provides support to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to strengthen communities. The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) is California's national service commission, charged with administering AmeriCorps programs in the state and connecting Californians in their communities through service. CNCS and GO SERV jointly compiled the following list of California service projects taking place over the holiday weekend:

Delta College AmeriCorps Program

Monday, January 19, 2004

Noon – 4 p.m.

The TRDP/AmeriCorps program at Delta College will participate in the annual snow day event supported by the Children's Museum of Stockton. Eight truck loads of snow will be emptied at the museum and formed into sled runs and play areas. AmeriCorps members assist in the collection of food and clothing, which is the entry fee to attend the event. There are also areas where children and AmeriCorps members will color in MLK coloring books and develop "I have a dream" inspired text. The event draws more than 4,000 families and children.

Contact: Tamara Rible, 209/954-5418.

College of the Redwoods AmeriCorps Program

Monday, January 19, 2004

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The TRDP/AmeriCorps program at College of the Redwoods will be coordinating a wood drive for homebound individuals and elderly in the Eureka community. This wood drive will engage over 50 AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps*VISTA and California Conservation Corps members, and community residents from Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Donations are being collected for distribution on MLK day. Service opportunities for volunteers will include stacking, loading, and transporting firewood. Contact: Dawn Jackman, 707/476-4539.

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MLK DAY 222

Sonoma SERVES AmeriCorps Program

Sonoma SERVES AmeriCorps Program will host four service projects for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Contact: Sara Fuller, 707/664-3148.

Friday, January 16, 2004

6 – 8 p.m.

Approximately 600 people are expected to attend in a children's poetry reading at R. L. Stevens Elementary school. The youth have been preparing poems and stories with the help of AmeriCorps members for weeks to read aloud to family members, friends and local community residents in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Saturday, January 17, 2004

8 – 10 p.m.

Over 100 people will participate in the second annual night of poetry and unplugged music at Epiphany World Music Store in Santa Rosa. Inspired by the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., local poets and musicians will sing and speak out to commemorate Dr. King.

Sunday, January 18, 2004

7 – 9 p.m.

Working in partnership with the Luther Burbank Center, Sonoma SERVES will host birthday celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event, which will draw approximately 800 individuals, will feature student speeches, local artists, and musicians.

Monday, January 19, 2004

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Close to 400 volunteers are expected at the "Day ON, Not a Day Off," event, which will be held at the Community Baptist Church. Activities inside the church include community awareness presentations. Activities outside the church include four AmeriCorps-led projects of processing books from a massive book drive. Books will also be distributed by AmeriCorps members on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Cesar Chavez Foundation

The project titled "A Common Vision," links Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chaves as role models sharing common visions around service to mankind and instilling values of respect and sacrifice to others. Over 250 first through fifth grade students will collect and prepare 1,000 items of clothing to be given to local shelters and homeless families in Venice. Contact: Shaun Hirschl, 818/265-0300 x35.

Volunteer Center Orange County

Monday, January 19, 2004

The Volunteer Center will focus the efforts of over 500 volunteers on three major projects to reduce hunger in Orange County. Volunteers will "Collect-a-Can," "Pick-a-Crop," and "Pack-a-Box." The day will flow from a workshop on the principles of Martin Luther King's work to the service activities, and then to a discussion and reflection session, which will include a publication produced for this event on service opportunities year-round. They will also present a website on which to record hours of Service for the President's Call to Service initiative. Contact: Bette Weinberg, 714/953-5757.

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MLK DAY 333

Contra Costa Earth Day

Monday, January 19, 2004

Contra Costa Earth Day will build on last year's MLK Day activities to bring high school students from diverse social, economic and cultural backgrounds to the San Francisco Bay Area for a three-part day of service, reflection and commitment. Approximately 150 youth from 14 schools will restore the shoreline area at Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline Regional Park. Restoration experts will guide the activities, local TV stations will run on site videos of the activities, and presentations by local choirs, community leaders, and dance troupes will focus on Martin Luther King's vision and message. Thousands of youth throughout the community will participate in 2004 education and service activities which will continue at future monthly projects throughout the Bay Area. Contact: Sheilah Fish, 925/274-3669.

Volunteer Center of Sonoma County

Monday, January 19, 2004

The project will involve 200 volunteers in a Literacy Action Day. The goals are to collect books and build bookshelves, and distribute them on Martin Luther King Day. The finished bookcases and books will be distributed to at-risk schools and 100 low-income children and families. Contact: Su Lin Mangan, 707/573-3367.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Monday, January 19, 2004

Over 200 volunteers will be organized into 33 teams to clean up, repair and paint residences of 40 elderly low-income people. The week prior to MLK Day will be dedicated to learning about the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On Martin Luther King Day the activities will kick off with a lesson on Dr. King. A library of materials will be purchased for each team, and each participant will be encouraged to pledge 100 hours of service in response to the President's Call to Service. Each volunteer will receive an "I Have a Dream" poster at the end of the day. Contact: Phil Matero, 213/747-1872, x310.

I Have A Dream Foundation, San Francisco

Monday, January 19, 2004

Following the 'I Have a Dream' - San Francisco (IHAD-SF) mission statement "to ensure that local youth acquire the life skills necessary to obtain a higher education, realize their full potential and help improve their communities," IHAD-SF will partner with Aim High Academy (AHA) to create a small multicultural library in honor of Dr. King. AHA is a San Francisco public school for grades 6-12, that opened its doors September 2003. On January 19, approximately 75 members of IHAD-SF will decorate the facility and stamp, sort, and catalog every book in the collection. At the end of the day, there will be a ceremonial ribbon cutting and opening of the Aim High Academy Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. Contact: Kaya Stone, 415/487-9334.

American Red Cross Santa Barbara Chapter

The Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Red Cross program will provide disaster preparedness, First Aid and CPR training and materials to youth, senior citizens, chronically ill and disabled people in Santa Barbara County. They will engage 150 representatives from youth and senior service organizations in disaster preparedness training and have them disseminate materials to targeted populations in the community. Contact: Fred Samuel, 805/687-7248.

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MLK DAY 444

Volunteer San Diego

Monday, January 19, 2004

This multifaceted program will support: a youth-initiated service project open to youth from throughout San Diego County designed for at least 150 youth; sponsor funding of 12 youth service mini-grants for groups of five to 20 youth to occur on Martin Luther King day; 20 youth service mini-grants to occur between January and June 2004; 50 UCSD students serving as service mentors to youth leaders in designing and implementing these service projects; and a service project toolkit designed by an AmeriCorps member that will be given in advance of the holiday to city and county schools. Contact: Rachel Goplin, 858/636-4124.

Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program

Project Calexico Park Restoration (CPR), on the border of California and Mexico, will recruit Calexico youth between the ages of 14-24 to restore a local park through engaging them in clean up days, tree planting, graffiti clean-up, park beautification, a poster contest, and group mentoring. The state of Calexico's parks are in great need of restoration. Graffiti and litter are in abundance and the parks are known hangouts for homeless people and gang-affiliated youth. This project will focus on one of the most environmentally challenged parks in the town of Calexico. Contact: Gabriel Aguirre, 760/482-2610.

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